

Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-06 SS-15 CPR-01

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P R 060605Z JAN 75 ZDK

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3048

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

JCS/OSD/ISA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, AMED, CH, GW

SUBJECT: MEDICAL CARE FOR PRG MINISTER ROHREKE

REF: A. STATE 265089; DEC, E, 1974; B. DEPT'S A-9211, DECEMBER 17, 19

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1. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR PAULS HAS APPROACHED ME HERE AND I UNDERSTAND

GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOKYO HAS MADE SIMILAR APPROACH TO SECURE MEDICAL CARE AT A U.S. FACILITY IN JAPAN FOR FRG EMBASSY MINISTER HEINRICH ROHREKE. ROHREKE, WHO FORMERLY WAS MINISTER AT FRG EMBASSY TOKYO, SUFFERED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MILD STROKE WHILE VISITING JAPAN IN EARLY DECEMBER. HE RETURNED TO PEKING FIVE OR SIX DAYS LATER, BUT AFTER A WEEK COMPLICATIONS DEVELOPED AND HE HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED HERE SINCE JANUARY 1. EMBASSY DESCRIBES CONDITION AS "BAD" WITH POSSIBLE "BRAIN COMPLICATIONS" AND DIFFICULTIES WITH HEART AND KIDNEYS. WIFE OF GERMAN FIRST SECRETARY ELIAS WHO IS MEDICAL DOCTOR IS ASSISTING CHINESE ON CASE AND PREPARING REPORT TO BE SENT TO TOKYO.

2. FRG EMBASSY COUNSELOR INDICATED GERMANS EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ROHREKE'S PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE. ROHREKE'S FATHER DIED IN CHINA UNDER TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND HE IS BECOMING CONVINCED THAT SAME FATE

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AWAITS HIM. HE IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO GET OUT OF PEKING TO

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN WHICH HE HAS CONFIDENCE. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH,
EMBASSY COUNSELOR NOTED THAT ROHREKE'S MOTHER WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

3. AMBASSADOR PAULS INDICATED TO ME THAT EARLIEST ROHREKE WOULD BE
ABLE TO TRAVEL WOULD BE ABOUT ONE WEEK. IF USE OF U.S. MEDICAL
FACILITIES IN JAPAN APPROVED HE WOULD TRAVEL VIA COMMERCIAL
AIRCRAFT AND FRG DOUBTLESSLY WOULD ASSUME ALL EXPENSES INVOLVED
IN CARE.

4. WHILE I AM FULLY CONSCIOUS OF SEVERE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON
USE OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS (REFS A AND B),
I STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THIS
REQUEST. GERMANS HERE ARE CONVINCED THAT ROHREKE CANNOT OBTAIN
ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE IN PEKING AND HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT AN OFFER

OF U.S. ASSISTANCE WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HIS
PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE. USLO HAS EXTREMELY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE
FRG EMBASSY HERE AND FROM AMBASSADOR PAULS ON DOWN. THE EMBASSY
IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL
IN PROVIDING BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS ON VISITING GERMAN
DELEGATIONS AND ON OBSERVATIONS BY EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS WHILE
TRAVELLING IN CHINA. IN ADDITION, DR. ELIAS HAS BEEN MOST
COOPERATIVE IN OFFERING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO USLO DEPENDENTS ON A
PRIVATE BASIS. IN MY JUDGMENT, U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE WOULD
PROVIDE IMPORTANT BENEFITS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH THE FRG
EMBASSY HERE AND IN TOKYO. I AM SURE THAT THIS EXPRESSION OF
SOLIDARITY WITH OUR NATO ALLY WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY APPRECIATED
BY THE FRG IN BONN. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

BUSH

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